

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 091055Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 369

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

S E C R E T TEHRAN 12216

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS PFOR IR UR

SUBJ: ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON NEW GOI-USSR ARMS DEAL

REF: TEHRAN 11933 (DTG 301250Z NOV 76)

1. MISSION HAS OBTAINED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT NEW SOVIET-IRANIAN ARMS DEAL FROM GEN TOUFANIAN. TALKS, CONDUCTED AT HIGHEST MID-LEVEL, WERE CHARACTERIZED BY TOUFANIAN AS VERY FRIENDLY AND INDICATING NEW DIRECTION IN GOI-USSR COOPERATION IRANIAN DEFENSE NEEDS.

2. FOLLOWING DETAILS SUPPLEMENT PARA 2 OF REFTEL:

A. SMALL MISSILE LAUNCHER MOUNTED ON TOP OF APCS IS AN ANTI-TANK ROCKET, SIMILAR TO THE SS-11. APC HAS CREW OF 3 (COMMANDER, DRIVER, AND GUNNER), AND NORMALLY CARRIER CREW OF 8 INFANTRYMEN.

B. "STRELA" IS 2M VERSION WITH NEW "COLD IR."

C. 130MM ARTILLERY PIECES ARE BEING OBTAINED, WITH "MUCH AMMUNITION." TOUFANIAN NOTED THAT DEAL MADE IN NOVEMBER AND DELIVERY OF THIS ITEM WOULD BEGIN IN DECEMBER; HE SAID THAT US NEVER ABLE TO RESPOND THAT QUICKLY.

D. AN INERTIAL NAVIGATION TACTICAL VEHICLE IS ALSO BEING OBTAINED. TOUFANIAN SAID SEVERAL WERE BEING BOUGHT "OUT OF CURIOSITY."

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E. SPARES, SIMULATORS, TARGETS AND A SUPPORT LINE ARE INCLUDED,

AND IN QUANTITIES DESIRED. TOUFANIAN MADE CLEAR THAT WITH RESPECT TO THIS NEW DEAL GOI NOT HOSTAGE TO SPARES AND SUPPORT AS IN PAST.

F. TOUFANIAN MADE POINT THAT RUSSIAN PERSONNEL PROVIDING TRAINING WOULD COST AT MAXIMUM \$1,500 PER MAN PER MONTH, PLUS TRANSPORTATION COST TO AND FROM USSR. HE SAID HE WOULD STAY COMPLETELY ON TOP OF SITUATION BOTH WITH RESPECT TO RUSSIANS COMING TO IRAN, AND IRANIANS GOING TO USSR FOR TRAINING--WHICH RUSSIANS PRESSED FOR.

G. DELIVERIES OF ALL ITEMS WOULD BE COMPLETED IN 1979, AND WOULD BE FROM NEW PRODUCTION.

H. DEAL TOTALLED 400 MILLION RUBLES, AND GOI HAD AGREED TO MAKE PAYMENT IN HARD CURRENCY. PAYMENT WOULD BE MADE IN 16 QUARTERLY INSTALLMENTS, WITH NO PAYMENT UNTIL AFTER DELIVERY, AND A GAS/OIL BARTER ASPECT WOULD BE INVOLVED IN OUT YEARS.

3. TOUFANIAN VISTED SEVERAL TRAINING CENTERS WHERE HE SAW ARABS (UNSPECIFIED), INDIANS, CUBANS AND AFRICANS (UNSPECIFIED) WITH FAMILIES. HE SAID THERE WERE MANY BANNERS AND MUCH PROPAGANDA, AND SOVIETS SEEMED TO BE TRAINING BALCK ACTION FORCES.

4. SOVIETS WERE PRESSING TOUFANIAN TO BUY LARGE NUMBERS OF VEHICLES FOR CIVIL SECTOR, SUCH AS JEEPS AND TRUCKS, BUT TOUFANIAN RESISTED. HE DID AGREE, HOWEVER, TO A LARGE DELEGATION OF RUSSIANS COMING TO IRAN EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR WITH THE AIM OF SELLING COMMERCIAL-TYPE ITEMS, INCLUDING VEHICLES. TOUFANIAN SAID HE MIGHT AGREE TO BUY SOME FORKLIFTS.

5. HIS INTERLOCUTORS STRESSED TO TOUFANIAN THAT THE USSR IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE ALL THE MILITARY EQUIPMENT NEEDED BY IRAN, AND ASKED, "WHY DOES IRAN BUY SO MUCH FROM THE US?" THE SOVIETS DID NOT, HOWEVER, RAISE WITH TOUFANIAN QUESTION OF NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN IRAN TO ASSIST MILITARY MODERNIZATION EFFORT, OR MAKE ANY MENTION OF SUCH ACTIVITY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY TRAINING, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY AGREEMENTS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TEHRAN12216
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760454-1271
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761256/aaaabwrdr.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 TEHRAN 11933
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON NEW GOI-USSR ARMS DEAL
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, IR, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006